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Mass To Be Televised

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—Solemn Mass was celebrated from the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul here today. It was believed to be the first telecast from a Catholic cathedral.

Witnessing the television service did not suffice for Catholics to comply with the requirement that they must be physically present at mass on Sundays, but such programmes might give non-Catholics a better understanding of the Church's principal form of worship.—Reuter.

Palestine Bloodshed

Eight Die In Gun And Knife Attacks

Jerusalem, Dec. 21.—Eight persons died in gun and knife attacks today as communal fighting flared along the roads of Palestine and in the upper Galilee area near the borders of Syria and Lebanon.

Haganah, the Jewish militia, called on Arabs to help bring order back to the Holy Land and also minimised Arab claims that thousands of volunteers were training for guerrilla warfare against Zionists. A state of complete anarchy exists in Arab areas of the Holy Land, Haganah contended.

Shooting continued for the third straight day in Upper Galilee where Arabs and Jews fought in the town of Safad. One Arab was killed and three Arabs and two Jews were wounded there. The town, which has a mixed Arab-Jewish population, was placed under a curfew until further notice. An official report said prepared gun positions were found in both the Arab and Jewish sectors.

Since the United Nations voted for Palestine partition a total of 298 persons have been killed in Palestine and 419 throughout the Middle East, an Associated Press count showed.

Reports of violence from various parts of the Holy Land today included:

Twenty-five Jews were said to have attacked an Arab quarter on the Ramat Jerusalem Road, damaging three houses with bombs. In Haifa, an Arab was found dead. One Arab was shot to death and a second wounded in the vicinity of Tel-Aviv.—Associated Press.

Cholera In Syria

Damascus Dec. 21.—A cholera epidemic has broken out in Syria and all infected areas were isolated today.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

Newsprint Discrimination

CHINA'S vernacular press, as well as many of her public speakers, seldom miss the opportunity of reiterating the desirability of cementing international friendship—a sentiment gladly endorsed by foreigners in China and elsewhere. But there are times when our Chinese friends show a peculiar idea of how to cement ties of friendship, the latest incomprehensible gesture being the newsprint allocation to the only two foreign-owned newspapers in Shanghai which has been so drastically cut that both the North China Daily News and the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury may have to cease publication. The organisation responsible for this vicious embargo is the Newsprint Publishers Guild. The action betokens deliberate discrimination—an underhand method of smothering the only true free press in Shanghai. To foreigners and thousands of English-reading Chinese, the North China Daily News has always represented dignified, accurate and scrupulously fair journalism. It has never been sensational either in format or content. In its long career it has been a constant friend of China, even in its criticisms of national and provincial administration. To drive a newspaper such as the North China Daily News off the streets in order to deny the public one of its most

Soviets May Call Plebiscite In Eastern Germany

SEQUEL TO DISMISSAL OF OFFICIALS

Berlin, Dec. 21.—Political observers in Berlin declared today that the swift succession of rulings by the Soviet military headquarters, which had resulted in the dismissal during the weekend of three leaders of the Christian Democrat Union, might soon be followed by "important political events."

One such development, it was suggested, might be a plebiscite by which Germans in the Soviet occupation zone could "determine their destiny"—such as was demanded on Saturday for the whole of Germany by the Permanent Committee of the "People's Congress", an organisation created under the sponsorship of the Soviet-supported Socialist Unity Party.

Such a plebiscite, it was thought, might be called for if and when the Soviet occupation authorities took steps to revise their present relationship with the Western Allies in the Control Council and the Berlin Commandant.

The Christian Democrat leaders who were dismissed were the Chairman of the party, Dr Jakob Kaiser, and Herr Ernest Lemmer, and the editor of the party newspaper Neue Zeit, Herr Wilhelm Gries.

Neither the party organisation nor the party press are the same as before the Soviet moves.

While Berlin newspapers in the Western sectors today carried streamer headlines reading "Kaiser and Lemmer eliminated," the party organ, Neue Zeit, now under Soviet control, did not mention the abrupt ending of Dr Kaiser's party leadership.

Instead, it declared that provincial organisations of the party had severed relations with the zone party directorate "until confidence could be restored."

DISMISSAL DENIED

The official Soviet organ in Berlin, Taefiche Rundschau, declared: "Reports that Dr Kaiser and Herr Lemmer have been dismissed are incorrect."

The tenor of the explanations in Soviet-controlled papers is that the elimination of the two leaders came as a result of a spontaneous action from within the party.

Dr Kaiser, in his report to the party's zonal chairman, declared that the party policy had not been "wrong," but that "its execution was made difficult for Christian Democrat Union officials by a third party."

"From what became known during recent weeks," he said, "these difficulties have resumed an unbearable character."

The details of the dismissal of Herr Wilhelm Gries as editor of Neue Zeit, which was followed immediately by the resignation of his chief assistant and almost the whole of the editorial staff, were published in today's American-licensed paper, Tagesspiegel.

REFUSED SOVIET ORDER

He was said to have refused to obey the Soviet order to have published a front-page headline reading "United States Violating Potsdam Agreement" and to have refused to delete from the paper a story about Christian Democrat Union zone leaders meeting with the Soviet Information chief, Colonel Sergei Tulpanov and the sentence "No agreement was reached."

When told that his licence had been cancelled, he asked the reason. The Soviet Press Office replied: "Everything," according to Tagesspiegel. The Soviet officials appointed a provisional new chief editor.

The Neue Zeit's circulation, which for Saturday had been cut by Soviet orders to 50,000 copies, was immediately restored to its former figure of 100,000.

Today's Sunday issue was prepared with the help of two Russian officers, Tagesspiegel reported. Dr Kaiser declared today that he no longer regarded Neue Zeit as the mouth-piece of the party.—Reuter.

W. GERMANY'S NEEDS

Berlin, Dec. 21.—The American and British Military Government today said that Western Germany would need approximately US\$4,000,000,000 in Marshall Plan aid during the next five years to help pay the nation's food bill and make up the difference between exports and imports.

Economic experts, in a detailed outline sent to Washington, foresaw a deficit in British-American zone exports under imports amounting to US\$1,373,000,000 in 1948 alone and said food imports would cost US\$700,000,000 next year.

Working on the theory that "priming the pump" with Marshall Plan dollars would cause a steady increase in exports, the authorities predicted that import needs for successive years would shrink gradually.

Foreseeable deficits which Marshall Plan aid would have to offset were listed as follows: US\$1,100,000,000 in 1949, US\$894,500,000 in 1950, US\$894,000,000 in 1951, US\$244,000,000 in 1952.—United Press.

S'hai Newsprint Dispute Latest

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—The dispute between the Newsprint Publishers Guild and Shanghai's two foreign-owned newspapers entered its fourth day today with brighter prospects of an early settlement.

The North China Daily News understands that Mr Chang Kinnau, Governor of the Central Bank, has addressed a reply to Mr Randall Gould, editor of the Shanghai Evening Post.

It is believed that the letter promises an inquiry into the dispute, which arose from the Guild's sudden and drastic reduction in newsprint quotas and also reassures Mr Gould that he is the final arbitrator in the matter of newsprint allocations.—Reuter.

Death Of Film Producer

Hollywood, California, Dec. 21.—Mr. Mark Hellinger, the American author and film producer, died here today from heart disease, aged 44.

Born and educated in New York, Mr Hellinger wrote for the New York Daily News and the Chicago Tribune Syndicate, later becoming a columnist.

In 1931, he began film writing. Among his scripts was that of the last "Ziegfeld Follies" picture. He also produced a number of movies.

During the second World War he became a war correspondent in the South Pacific and India.—Reuter.

CNRRA Tug In Sea Drama

Disaster Narrowly Averted

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—The CNRRA Water Transport ocean-going tug, "Sea Lion", skippered by Captain Harry Hammond, from Manly, Australia, featured in a near disaster off the north coast of Formosa during the weekend, when a surplus U.S. Navy LST it was towing broke loose after a 12-hour battle with the north-eastern monsoon which is sweeping the Straits of Formosa, according to private despatches received here this morning.

Earlier in the day, a large wire cable, nearly six inches in circumference, began sweeping across the aft deck and took away the roller stops which regulate the sweep of the cable.

Calling his officers and men on deck, Captain Hammond effected emergency repairs, and when he saw that the sudden roll sent men sprawling, he ordered them off the decks and tried to veer the ship to ease the strain off the cable.

For 12 hours, the Sea Lion fought head-on seas, and then, in the small hours of the morning, the officer on watch felt the tow give and the LST broke away.

Awakening daylight, the Sea Lion went in search of the tow and found that it had drifted towards Keelung, near which she anchored for another tow attempt when the weather clears up.

Captain Hammond sailed with the United States Army in New Guinea and the Philippines during the war.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

28 MONTHS FOR ALLEN

William Elijah Allen, Health Inspector, who was convicted by a jury on Saturday on 19 counts of conspiracy to obtain bribes and accepting bribes from stallholders in Shamshipo, Yau-mat and Mongkok markets, was this morning sentenced by Mr Justice Williams to two years and four months hard labour.

Man Kam-fat, beef-stall holder, found guilty on six counts in which he was jointly charged with Allen, was sentenced to 20 months hard labour.

Chui Hong, Sanitary Department market foreman, found guilty on six charges in which he was jointly charged with Allen, was sentenced to 15 months hard labour.

In passing sentence, the Chief Justice said that he regarded the offences as being very serious. He appreciated the hardships which Allen had suffered during his period of imprisonment in the Colony and in Japan.

Mr Justice Williams paid tribute to the work of the police in connection with the case, saying that it was a hard task and must have occupied much of their time. It was all the more praiseworthy because the Police Force at this moment was very busy.

He said that the unanimous verdict of the jury clearly rejected the suggestion that the receipt for fans was "planted" by the police officer, and he himself did not think for a moment that the police officers would stoop to do such a thing.

Henry Wallace For President Movement

ADVISED TO FORM THIRD POLITICAL PARTY

Washington, Dec. 21.—Mr Henry Wallace, the former Democrat Vice-President of the United States, has been subjected this week to strong pressure from the extreme Leftwing of his supporters to found a third political party and declare immediately his intention of becoming a candidate for the Presidency next year in opposition to both the Republican and Democrat candidates.

Mr Wallace has, so far, avoided committing himself in any way, but reports that he was inclining towards setting up a third party were sufficient to cause a split in the diminished number of organisations which still strongly support him.

The most important was the defection of the wealthiest potential financial backer, the wealthy New York section of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, and a demand that President Truman and Mr Wallace should resolve their differences from Mr Frank Klingdon, one of the chairmen of the Progressive Citizens of America, an organisation which has, hitherto, been an enthusiastic Wallace supporter.

DISAVOWED BY LIBERALS

Earlier this year, after Mr Wallace's attacks on the United States policy towards Russia, he was disavowed by the Liberal section headed by Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, Mr Paul Porter, the former Price Control chief, who is now a United States member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and others who had been close associates of Mr Wallace from his New Deal days.

These organisations have disassociated themselves from Mr Wallace as a Presidential candidate and he has also been disavowed by the leaders of the powerful Congress of Industrial Organisations and other unions.

His close friend, Senator Claude Pepper, (Democrat of Florida), has made it clear that he will support President Truman for the Presidency.

"The final batch of the disavowals which came this week leaves Mr Wallace with little effective organised political support except from the Communist Party and organisations in which Communists are said to hold controlling positions.

Mr Wallace is not a Communist and has always appeared embarrassed by the support the Communists had given him.

UNPREDICTABLE

It is therefore considered unlikely that he will take the plunge and stand for the Presidency outside the Democrat Party—and he has no chance of defeating Mr Truman for the Democrat nomination.

But political observers here say that Mr Wallace's career has shown him to be completely unpredictable.

Mr Wallace's friends say that the primary motive of his political thinking is to prevent the drift to war which he feels is inevitable if President Truman remains in office and continues his present policy towards Russia.

He has tried to force the President to change this by threatening to block his election next year, but President Truman has, so far, ignored him and Mr Wallace has failed to gain substantial political support.—Reuter.

U.S. Determined To Keep Ahead In Arms Race

Washington, Dec. 21.—To keep the United States ahead in the weapons race, the Research and Development Board has been ordered by Secretary of Defence, Mr Forrestal to submit at least once a year a new master plan for military research.

The instructions appeared tonight in a directive defining the duties and authority of the Board, the membership of which was completed recently under the Chairmanship of Dr Vannevar Bush. On the Board are two representatives each of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

To gear the whole field of research with the strategic planning of the

32 Stowaways Found On Ship

Southampton, England, Dec. 21.—A group of 32 stowaways, 31 young West Indians and a 15-year old Welsh boy, landed from the Royal Mail liner Almazora when she reached here today from the West Indies.

The West Indians, who are thought to have got on board at Kingston, Jamaica, were discovered when the liner's 670 Service and civilian passengers landed today.

Most of the stowaways were in working clothes, but one or two wore Royal Air Force battle dress.

They were taken to police headquarters, and all will appear at the magistrate's court tomorrow.

The 15-year-old boy on board the Almazora, who voyaged from Southampton to the West Indies and back, was John Francis Chapman, of Newport, Monmouthshire.

At the suggestion of the ship's captain, the company decided not to prosecute John on account of his age. John left Southampton tonight with his father, who travelled from Newport to meet the ship.—Reuter.

SHIPWRECK ORDEAL

Survivors Battered For 30 Hours

Prestwick, Scotland, Dec. 21.—All 12 survivors of the Fleetwood trawler Dhoon, wrecked on the Icelandic coast on December 12, with the loss of three lives, were brought back to Prestwick Airport from Reykjavik in a specially chartered plane today.

They told their own story of the long ordeal when they were battered 30 hours by winter seas at the worst spot of the Icelandic coast before being hauled up a sheer 150-metre cliff in a rope chair by farmers and coastguards.

The Dhoon survived three tides and it was not until Saturday, in the short Arctic daylight, that Icelandic coastguards and farmers, who had gathered on the cliff-top during the night, were able to make the rescue with a breeches buoy.

When an attempt to get the men to the top of the cliff was frustrated by darkness fell and seven were stranded on the ledge, the Icelanders stripped and exchanged their clothing for the soaking garments of the fishermen.

All through the long night the Icelanders protected the survivors from further exposure by forming a human ring to shelter them from the sleet and rubbing their limbs to maintain circulation.

When daylight came, they were all rescued and taken to scattered farmhouses.—Reuter.

Chinese Reds' Latest Claim

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The Chinese Communist radio said today that General Chen Yi and Chen Keng had destroyed more than 15,000 government troops and captured more than 20 Hunan county towns in operations in Central China in the week ending December 19.

The broadcast, heard by the Associated Press in San Francisco, said the two Communist Generals had exchanged congratulatory handshakes on the Peiping-Hankow railway line and had together destroyed 150 miles of that route and 130 miles of the intersecting Lunglai railway.

Chinese government accounts have named both these Communist Generals as threatening Kaileng, Hunan provincial capital, but said on Friday their forces had been driven back.—Associated Press.

Talks To Try And Avert Big Strike

Washington, Dec. 21.—Government conciliators met in a daylong emergency session today with Company and Union officials in a last-ditch effort to avert a nationwide strike by 60,000 telegraph workers which may be called "at any moment."

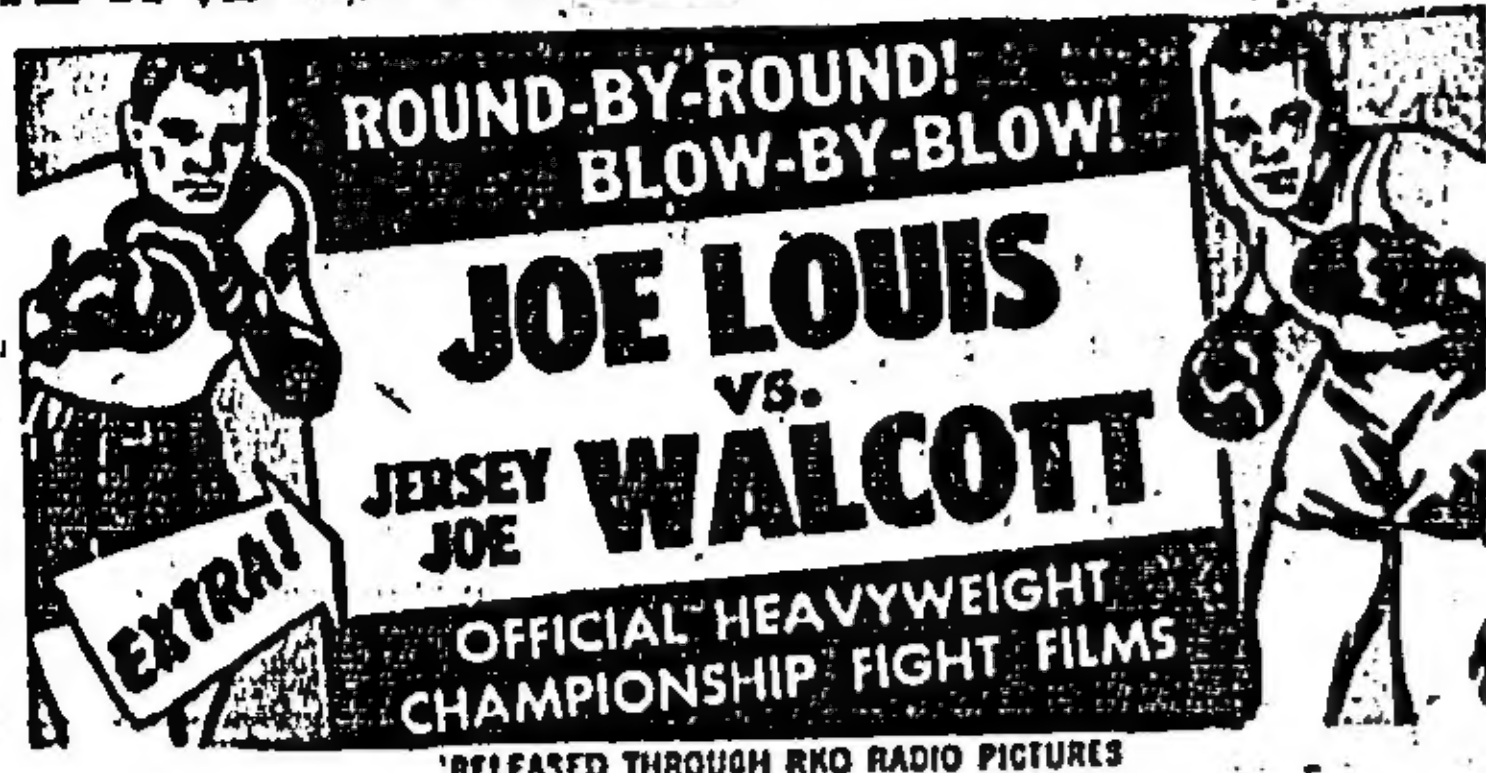
Although one Federal labour official had expected "some progress" when negotiations got underway this morning, Union officials said they had heard nothing from the Western Union Telegraph Company that had "changed the picture in any way."—United Press.

SHOWING
TO-DAY

QUEEN'S

At 2.30, 5.00,
7.15 & 9.30 p.m.

GRAND DOUBLE ATTRACTION!



"WITHOUT RESERVATIONS"

Starring Claudette COLBERT • John WAYNE

An RKO Radio Picture



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ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

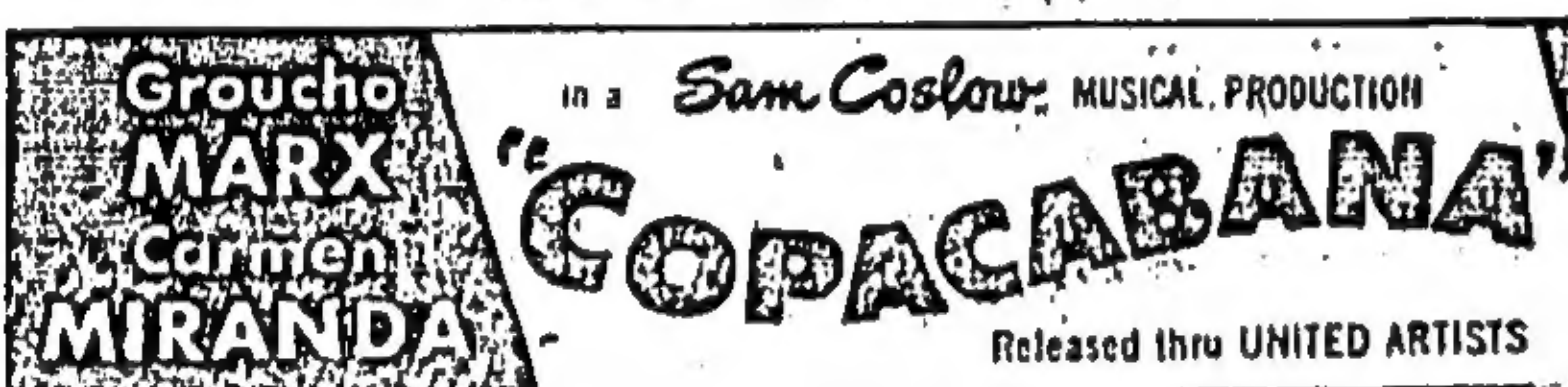
BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. DAILY

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.



ALSO: • FOOTBALL DEFENCE
• PALESTINE
• HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY

NEXT CHANGE



ALHAMBRA THEATRE

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

"SECRET AGENT NO. 1"

Dialogue in Mandarin

ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.

YOU'LL CRY... THROUGH YOUR CHEERS!

YOU'LL LAUGH... THROUGH YOUR TEARS!

And as you laugh with them you'll love all the more!

THE FIRST BIG HUMAN

STORY OF THE WAR!



Commencing To-Morrow: **"COURAGE OF LASSIE"**

TO-DAY ONLY: **Cathay** AT 2.30 5.20, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

THEIR NEWEST FUN! THEIR FUNNIEST HIT!

AND GAYEST, GREATEST SLEIGH RIDES!

Bud ABBOTT & Lou COSTELLO in **"HIT THE ICE"**

with Conny SIMMS & 50 Beauties

GRAND OPENING TO-MORROW

Gary COOPER in CECIL B. DEMILLE'S

"THE STORY OF DR. WASELL"

in TECHNICOLOR with Laraine DAY

Politics in Paradise!

To get them in the mood

IT'S ALL DONE TO A BACKGROUND OF FILM FANS AND FIREWORKS, RUM AND RUMBA...

R. M. MACCOLL
flies to a hospital in Cuba, where 1,000 delegates from 63 nations complete the operation they began in Switzerland during the summer of this year...

And now for the business in hand

Geneva blunder goes into its last act...

"Leave out that 'prior approval' clause and you'd make the charter just a joke," said one delegate following Clayton's own line.

Number Two snag is Russia and her six missing satellites. Some of the nations at Havana are all out for "stiff penalties"—even sanctions—against Russia and Co., even though their only offence is not joining the club.

And snag No. 3 is the question of voting power. The small countries think it would be a good idea for voting to be on a one-country-one-vote basis, size of country no object. Britain and America say that will not do. "Is this democracy?" counter the small countries. "Does the poor, feeble man get one vote and the rich, powerful man get 20?"

Mr. Clayton contracts his white eyebrows at this. It really does seem a bit absurd that the vote of, say, Liberia is to be as powerful in the world's commercial councils as that of, say, America. And yet...

Take Cuba again. America has been hoping hard that some other country—any other country—can be found that would shoulder even a small portion of the Marshall Plan responsibilities. It would make things look so much more attractive to Congress if one would.

There were wistful glances at the Argentine. Then someone had a bright idea. Why not get a sugar contribution from Cuba? But Senator Jose Canasova, the local sugar boss, had all the answers. And they were all "No. The future is too uncertain."

The new baby

WHOEVER is right about the future, the fact is that for the present Cuba is doing very nicely. Her last year's sugar crop netted her \$150,000,000 worth of those scarce American dollars.

By January 15 next this conference must be over. (The Cubans have indicated with the greatest politeness that they will need their capital again by then.) Mr. Clayton will know by that date whether he has triumphed once more, and whether his latest baby is as bouncing as its European elder brother.

But bouncing or not, it will get the best of treatment. Just across the street from the Hospital Orthopaedico is yet another hospital—the "Maternidad."

Check these present-giving axioms—true or false. Then mark yourself up on the answers. Maximum possible score is 90. Over 75 is excellent; 60-75, good; 40-60 fair; under 40—better reshuffle your Christmas gifts.

1. Women don't like practical presents. — Wrong. True. women like it to be implied that they are fairy tale princesses, but they also remember the times. So, if you have sent newly wed Cousin Kate a door-mat for the hall and a coal scuttle, you only score 10.

2. A square aluminium saucepan for Mother, that will be economical in cooker space, scores 8.

3. A coloured face flannel and a plastic toilet bag for Sister Mary. — 5.

4. Sweets are too transitory a gift. — Wrong. But if you've taken every effort to give Mother a thrill, take care she doesn't re-donate them to some more deserving case when you're not looking. You should have thought of that, and so can only score 10.

5. Picture frames are popular with Service or ex-Service for group photos. — Wrong. Ex-Chief Wren Pam wants to escape now, and again from Service associations. A large frame to establish her fellow-decoders will score you only 3.

6. Flowers are extravagant and not in keeping with these times. — Wrong. Crowds round florists' places prove how flower-hungry we are. Flatter Mother with a pot of daffodils, and score 10.

7. Handkerchiefs are a safe bet. — Not always. They should be in the luxury class. Only if you have chosen squares heavy with lace for overworked Aunt Winnie, a monogrammed set for Brother Bob, and a head-scarf for yourself can you score 10.

8. Bath luxuries are sure to please. — Right. Luscious-scented bath salts to give Uncle Tom's office staff sure knowledge of his whereabouts wouldn't do 10.

9. Jewellery is always acclimated. — Right. Providing you remember her type. Aquamarine for an auburn-haired cream-skinned wife means 10.

10. Heavy, chunky necklaces for diminutive Sister Julie, who doesn't like cows or games, would be wrong. 5.

11. But if the cheque book can be soiled sufficiently, a jewelled jacket spray would please all ages and temperaments. 10.

The narrow streets of Havana echo with the specially clamorous horns mounted on a sleek procession of the latest imported American high-powered cars. Just now it is Laurence Olivier in "Enrique V." and "Simpatico Jaime Mason" in "El Hombre on Gris." A casino flourishes.

The medley of races you see in a Havana street, ranging from Congo ebony through parchment to white, is furiously and excitingly re-produced in music. The current smash-hit for dancers is "Penicillina" (Penicillin), in which a few bars from Mendelssohn's Wedding March make an appearance.

But even in music politics lurk in Cuba. Except at one or two strictly specified fiestas each year, the Government has banned the deep-throated African conga drum, main instrument of Cuban orchestra.

It was thought to be a little too useful for tapping out messages in jungle telegraphese in the back country at times of tension. Except for a constant exuberant popping of fireworks day and night, Havana seems placid.

Next year there is a presidential election in Cuba. Several times the conference committees sitting in the rooms of the Capitol Building have had their deliberations disturbed by jeeps circling the streets outside playing amplified gramophone records boasting this or that candidate.

"Bit of a nuisance, you know," said an English official. "Nothing like that in Geneva."

And now we'll face the conference itself.

HAVANA.

I ASKED the Cuban official where I might find Mr. Arthur Bottomley, Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade and chief of the British delegation to the International Trade Organisation's charter conference.

"Senor Bottomley is in the hospital," he replied. "I'm sorry to hear that." "Which hospital?" "Orthopaedic Hospital, senor." "Was he in a taxi smash?" "I do not know."

"Well, what about Mr D. J. D. Clark, the public relations officer?" "Also in the Orthopaedic Hospital. The whole British delegation is in hospital."

"Heavens! An epidemic?" "Also the delegation of the Estados Unidos—all in the hospital. Mexico—in the hospital. Canada—in the hospital."

The tenants

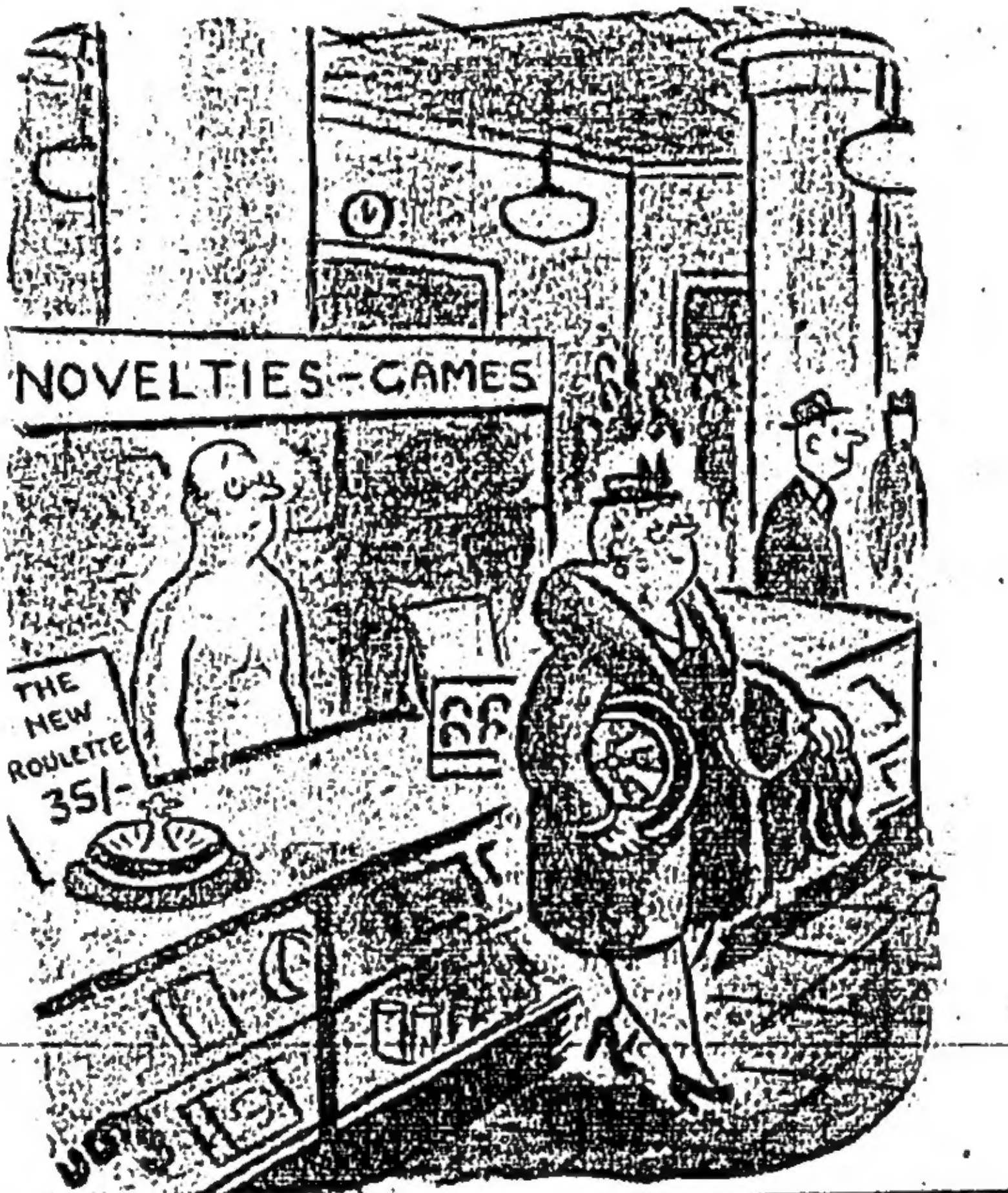
SURE enough, they were. The hospital, due to a certain matter of internal Cuban politics, has been standing, forlorn and patientless since it was completed two years ago.

Now it is triumphantly tenanted. Mr Bottomley dictates his letters from the handsome operation theatre. Mr William Clayton, of the United States, composes radio addresses in the head matron's room. All very antiseptic and brave new worldish, if it were not for the tired old-worldish faces from Geneva.

What are they up to now? What brings 1,000 delegates and their secretaries 3,000 miles westward to the world's rumba headquarters... out of season?

The compere

THIS is the last act of the Geneva tragedy. Mr Clayton has emerged from semi-retirement to compere it. He is, unfortunately, the man more than any other responsible for a smashing of Empire Preferences at Geneva.



BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

AT two minutes past seven Professor Dendergast approached the Moonbeam; he was dressed in a grey suit, and frequently paused to acknowledge, with lifted hat, the cheers of the watchers.

Two minutes later he was joined by Sir Archer Tatham and Professor Alton Trowie, both of whom seemed surprised at their cordial reception. At 7.5 a louder cheer announced the approach of the Doctor himself, in earnest conversation with Mr Hoplite. The Doctor, it was noticed, wore a long green overall and a straw hat and seemed abstracted. He paused to speak to the men who were loading the last of the stores, and then, turned alertly and tapped the body of the rocket with a small silver gavel. Ironical applause greeted this manoeuvre, which changed to laughter when the Doctor fell over a stanchion-wire and crushed his hat.

Last preparations

THE Doctor then dipped his finger in a dish of honey, held it up to test the wind, and looked at it with evident satisfaction. Professor Dendergast, crouched a tiny steel triangle, and lay, down, full length, to look at a small cloud through it. Sir Archer Tatham and Professor Trowie

stood one at each end of a thick rope, with electric thermometers in their hands, making calculations. Mr Roy Hoplite put his left hand before his eyes, counted 42, and jotted down a note on a writing pad. The crowd watched these mysterious activities with cheerful insolence, occasionally shouting rude remarks. Then the five pioneers prepared to get into the rocket.

Let's go, Rest.

DAD-DY, why do the Un-1-ans try to force ev-er-y wor-ker to join them?

For one rea-son, to stop out-siders wor-king hard-er than the mem-bers of the Un-1-on.

But, dad-dy, sure-ly there is no harm in do-ing more work than some-one else. I thought we all had to work our hard-est, at the pres-ent time.

Yes, but, well—you see—oh, be quiet, boy.

For a wet Day

How would you get from C to B without touching A?

NANCY That's That



Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day
By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

I offer a Salute to Youth, says Lois Leeds, BUT...

ADVICE TO TEENERS

The Youngsters of today are the Beauties of tomorrow! Each teen age girl should have the Love of Beauty instilled in her by her mother. These girls have lots of "beauty problems". Witness these letters.

Several "Miss Thirties" have written—one to ask whether I think she is too young to use lipstick. No, not for parties. I mother approves. Another asks whether 13 is too young for "dates" with boys! Yes, it is too young, unless at a party or with a group of boys and girls, with that old-fashioned nuisance, a chaperon or the modern equivalent. ("Thirties" won't like that!)

Another wants to know how to wear her hair for a "broader face" effect. Cut it short and get mother to allow a permanent wave for deep ringlets all over the head.

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



When you pluck your eyebrows you change the shape. If the hair grows above the edge, pluck those out. If they meet over the nose, pluck there. And if there are stray hairs below the brows, pluck those. All of this must be done gently and the hairs plucked in the direction in which they grow. Brush the brows often. This "polishes" them and does encourage growth. Sleek, well groomed eyebrows give accent to your entire Personality.

Apple Platter Cake

APPLES are still plentiful, so try this new platter cake. You can use it as a sweet, or for the children's tea.

Peel the apples, cut into thin wedges, and place in salted water. This prevents them going brown. Make a flour mixture with 1/2 lb. self-raising flour, 1 rounded teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 level teaspoon salt and 2 tablespoons sugar. Rub in 2/3 oz. cooking fat or margarine or a mixture of both.

Flavour 1/4 pint cold water with almond or lemon essence, and use this to wet the flour mixture to a soft cake consistency.

Spread this mixture—not more than 1 inch deep—on to a very large greased baking tin.

Put the apples in rows all over the mixture, and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon.

Bake on the middle shelf of a moderately hot oven for about half an hour. If necessary, lower the heat during the last 10 minutes. Cut into pieces, remove from the tin, and put on a cake rack.

They'll Be Far From Home This Christmas

Of all the British soldiers spending Christmas overseas this year, none will feel so remote from home as the 56 men who make up the ships' companies of two RASC vessels. For they will be wandering among the islands of the East Indies, in the neighbourhood of the Equator, entirely cut off from any other unit.

The men are RASC crews and RE bomb-disposal specialists. They are on a nine-months 2000-mile round trip to collect Japanese, British and American aerial bombs lying on airfields and dumps in Sarawak, Brunei and British Borneo and to dump them in the sea.

When they set off from Singapore in October, their 34-year-old quartermaster, Captain A. W. Short, was already thinking ahead to Christmas.

Holly For The Boys

"I tried everywhere in Singapore to buy some artificial mistletoe and holly for the boys at Christmas," he told a correspondent, "but I didn't have much success. How-

ever, I collected plenty of spares for the Welfare wireless sets and a stock of sports equipment for the days the boys spend ashore. And I think the food and beer situation will be pretty good."

Every man in the expedition, with the exception of a handful of Regulars, is a volunteer who has deferred his release from the Army specially to go on the trip. All were told that they would be away for anything up to nine months, with no possible chance of leave in that time, and that it might be a dangerous job. Yet there were twice as many volunteers as the expedition could take.

In command at sea is Captain C. Ruchan Tallar, aged 23, who had four years in the Merchant Navy before joining the Army and who was blown up by a German torpedo in the Bristol Channel. Now, as skipper of the 500-ton LCT 1147, he is making his last trip before leaving the Army.

Tricky Task

The commander of the other ship, the 250-ton motor-vessel 1514, is Warrant-Officer D. Turvey. His craft acts as supply ship for the expedition and will go to and from ports in Borneo, taking fresh food to the LCT.

As a seafaring job, the task of these two RASC skippers is tricky. They work in dangerous waters, where there are hidden reefs to be dodged and perhaps typhoons to be faced. To help them, they have a special set of maps and charts drawn from the Royal Navy Chart Depot at Seletar, Singapore.

On land, Major Edward L. Bourne, GM, Royal Engineers, is in charge. He used to command a deep-sea bomb-disposal unit of divers and frogmen. Now he is the only officer of the unit who has not left on release.

"I expect a lot of difficult jobs will crop up on this trip," said Major Bourne. "Dumping bombs is always a dangerous task, even when you take full precautions, but all our experience during and after the war has been put into the equipment of the LCT."

There are between 2,000 and 3,000 bombs to be destroyed. Most of the Jap bombs are in dumps, but the others will be scattered around. There are nearly 50 deadly Jap gas-bombs and up to now I haven't seen this type. In Sibau and Kuching, a lot of bombs that fell around houses will have to be dug out, but one bomb will probably stay where it fell for ever—in the Kuching town, septic tank. We are carrying special equipment which will be used only by warrant officers and sergeants to deal with fuses.

"I expect we shall have a particularly tricky time getting some of the bombs from their sites to the LCT and the ship is carrying vehicles specially for this job."

Prefabricated Cabins

Special accommodation has been arranged on the two ships to cater for the 24 bomb-disposal men who are added to the LCT's normal complement. On the craft itself, prefabricated cabins were put up in the well of the ship, and on the supply ship two refrigerators of 110 cubic feet each have been fitted. In these will be stored things like local cucumbers, beans, sugar cane and various types of cabbage, as well as European vegetables, and plenty of fresh local fruit—pineapple, durian, guava and the more popular ones like oranges and lemons.

Two medical orderlies, experienced in the ways of the Far East, are on the trip. They may have to give first aid in tropical diseases, including three kinds of malaria, and cope with the ravages of dozens of pests, like flies, ants, sandflies, itch mites, leeches, scorpions and centipedes. Also they must be on hand when the men are working in areas infested with crocodiles and snakes.

Free Love And Nudity Condemned

Presentation of nudity on the stage under the guise of "artistic display" was attacked by the Public Morality Council London recently.

At its annual meeting attended by 40 people—among them bishops and curates—Mr. George Tomlinson, the general secretary, gave the results of investigations made by Council committees.

During the year nine plays had been criticised by the Council's Stage Plays Sub-Committee—chief reasons being:

Treatment of religion in such a way as to bring it into disrepute and contempt;

Presentation in certain plays of free love as a normal and reasonable thing; and

Exploitation of nudity.

On this Mr. Tomlinson said: "The Council strongly disents from the view taken by the Lord Chamberlain, who permits it in certain circumstances—for example, when the subject is still and when the representation is artistic."

Voluntary Censorship

"This opens the door to a vast degree of harm, and if the practice is allowed to spread throughout the country the consequences may well be calamitous."

There was a voluntary censorship arranged by the trade itself, and generally it worked excellently, said Mr. Tomlinson.

Among the 13 films they had commended during the year were: "Les Enfants du Paradis," "A Woman Destroyed," "While the Sun Shines," "Black Narcissus," "Monsieur in Souris," "Birth of a Baby," "Frieda," "The Yearling," "Jassy," and "The Courtneys of Curzon Street."

Many complaints had been made of books alleged to be indecent. Representation had been made to the Public Prosecutor in a number of cases.

Many books submitted to the Council under complaint proved to be "coarse, vulgar and objectionable."

"One publisher voluntarily submitted a book before publication. This is the right way of approach—stop a bad thing at the beginning rather than allow publication and circulation first," added Mr. Tomlinson.

WELSH CHORUS FOR B.B.C.

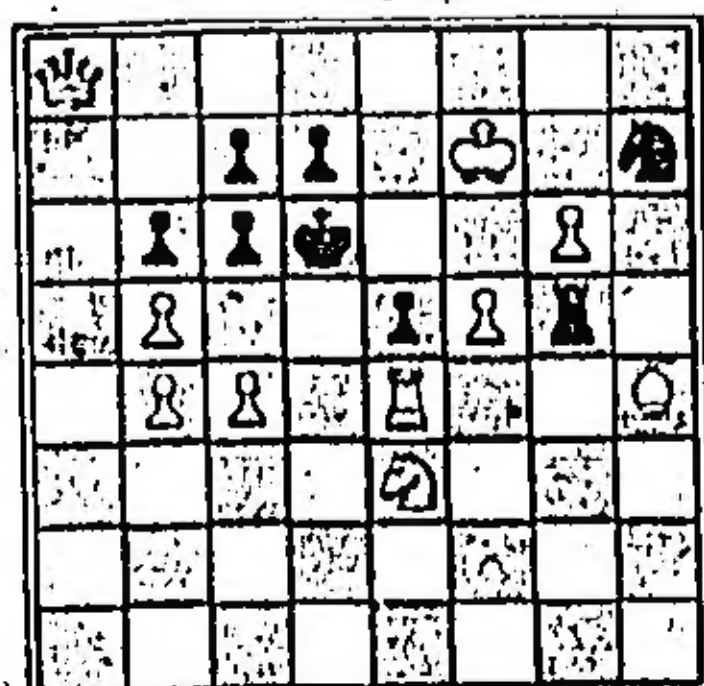
Early in the New Year the B.B.C. will introduce a Welsh chorus in its regular radio programmes from Cardiff. The new combination of singers has been recruited in South Wales.

To facilitate rehearsals and save travelling costs, those granted an audition were chosen from applicants living within a 25 miles radius of the Cardiff studios. Within a few days of the announcement in the Press there were nearly 150 applications.

The chorus will be trained and conducted on the air by Mr. Idris Lewis, B.B.C. Welsh music director and a former film music specialist at Elstree, near London.

CHESS PROBLEM

By P. J. D. GETTING
Black: 8 pieces.



White, 10 pieces.
White to play and mate in two.

Solution to Saturday's problem:
1. Kt4. 1... K-B4; 2. Kt5. 2... P-B4; 3. Kt-B4 (ch).

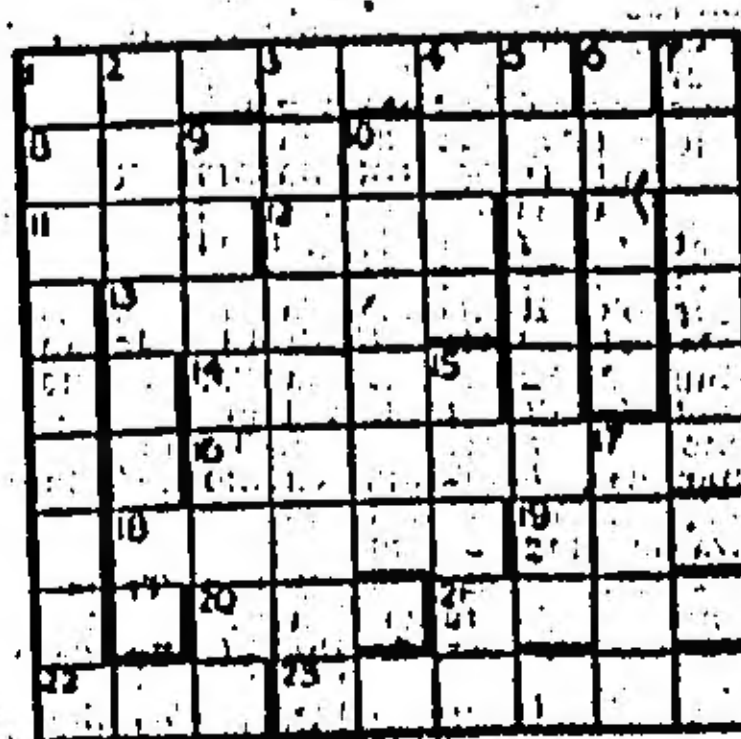
Rupert and the Three Guides—55



Up on the common Rupert meets the three Guides back and, to his surprise, he finds the hedgehog is there, too. "I asked you to tell me what the squirrels were up to," says Horace. "Have you found out yet?" Rupert laughs. "I should think we have found out," he says. "You're just in time to see the end of the affair." And, still clutching the treasure which he found in his toy-box, he goes with the others into the thick wood.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across
1. A bird which is a common sight in the East. (4)
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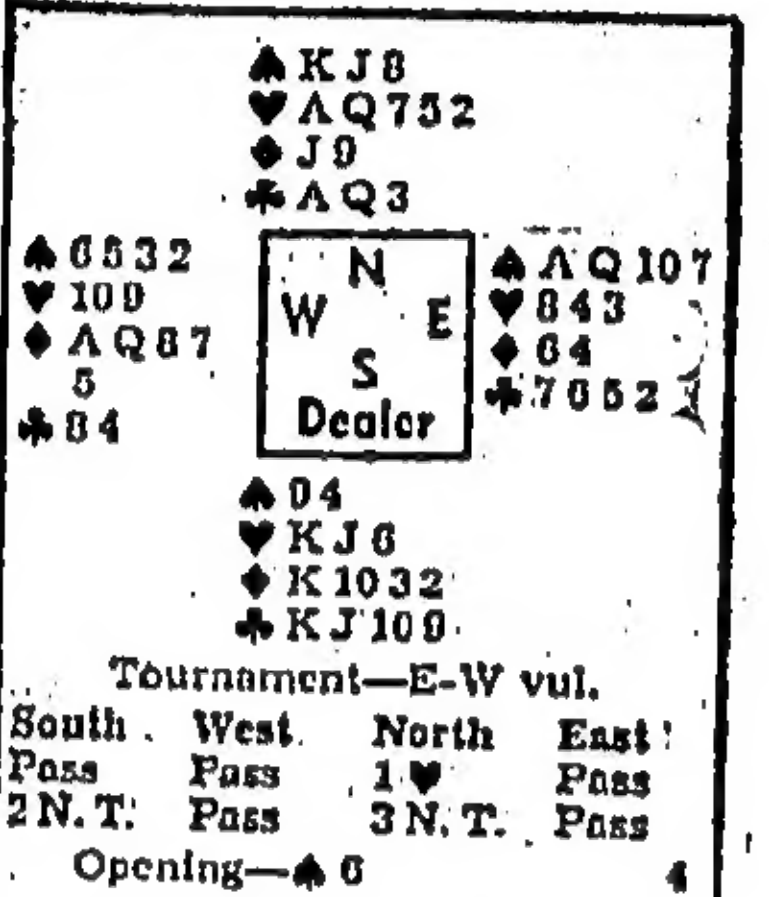
DUMB BELLS



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

New Rule—When in Doubt, Lead Spades

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY



ONE of my own little pet theories is, when in doubt, lead a spade. This sounds silly, but it is surprising how often a spade is the correct lead on a hand. I want to call your attention to the bidding of today's hand, which occurred in the national men's pair championship. North started the bidding with a heart, and it was unlikely that he held four spades. South elected to bid two no trump, and having passed originally, this bid generally would indicate that he did not have four spades, but was pretty well fortified in the minor suits. Now what suit do you think West should open?

Of course the general rule is to lead the fourth best of your longest and strongest suit. But if West leads a diamond, declarer will cash a diamond, five hearts and four clubs, making four no trump. When I saw this hand played, West reasoned that in all probability neither North nor South held four spades, and therefore his partner probably did have four spades.

He decided to attack the spade suit first, but he led the six, not the deuce. He was trying to tell East to lead the higher of the two obvious suits, in this case clubs and diamonds. East won the first trick with the ten of spades and led a diamond. This put West in again, with the queen of diamonds. Another spade was led, and as a result East was able to cash the rest of his spades. Thus East and West took four spades and two diamonds, setting the contract two tricks, while North and South would have made ten tricks if West had led the fourth best diamond.

Check Your Knowledge

1. Name the most famous of the musical composition of Johann Strauss.
2. Locate Tierra del Fuego.
3. Name the most common anarthritic.
4. What was the Boxer Rebellion?
5. When is V. J. Day celebrated?
6. What famous literary couple had a dog named Flush?

(Answers on Page 4)

SHOWING TO-DAY **KING'S** At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

"ALONG THE RIVER BANK"

Chinese Picture in Mandarin
NEXT CHANCE



CENTRAL THEATRE

TO-DAY AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

- SECOND EPISODE -



SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



GRAND CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION
"THE YEARLING" in Technicolor

STAR

2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
TO-DAY ONLY

Swashbuckling action to thrill the world!
"THE FIGHTING GUARDSMAN"

with Willard Parker • Anita Louise

To-morrow One Day Only
starring "BEDELIA" Margaret Lockwood

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They Gave their Lives.

We, too, may give through the

HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Send your donation to the Hon. Treasurer, Lowe, Bingham & Matthews, Mercantile Bank Bldg.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"When I was a boy I had to grow into my shoes, but I'm giving your son an exact fit because these wouldn't last that long!"

GHAVAM SAID ARRESTED

Tehran, Dec. 21.—Press reports today said that ex-Premier Ghavam es Sultaneh was arrested on Saturday and his passport confiscated.

Reports said Ghavam paid a formal visit yesterday to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, and was to depart for the United States via Geneva when his arrest was ordered by the public prosecutor. They said the police confiscated his passport and the plane left without him.

The Majlis announced that a parliamentary committee would investigate charges against Ghavam. The nature of the charges was not disclosed. The Iranian Cabinet resigned on December 4 in a dispute with Ghavam, then Premier, over domestic politics. Ghavam refused to resign until voted out by the People's Parliament. United Press.

IBN SAUD MAY STOP SELLING OIL

Cairo, Dec. 21.—The newspaper Al Nassar said today in a dispatch from Jidda, Saudi Arabia, that King Ibn Saud had summoned officials of the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company to his capital at Al Riyadh.

The Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company and a companion corporation, the Arabian American Oil Company, are owned jointly by four United States companies—the Texas Company, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Standard Oil of California and Socony Vacuum.

"It is understood," Al Nassar said, "the King will tell them that, owing to Arab public feeling concerning the partition of Palestine, he is compelled to reconsider the oil concessions and that one cannot sell his religion and the Holy Land for American dollars."

The newspaper said that William Rogers of New York, chairman of the Texas Company and Vice-President of Trans-Arabian, and other officials were "now in Al Riyadh on their way to see the king."

It added that Sheikh Yussef Yassin, acting Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, had been recalled from the Arab League meeting at Cairo to attend the conference.—Associated Press.

America Wants Scrap Metal

Washington, Dec. 21.—A United States mission will leave here for Germany on December 30 to find out what iron and steel scrap can be brought to the United States to relieve the bottle neck in U.S. steel production, Mr. Averell Harriman, Secretary of Commerce, announced today.

"The needs for scrap in European iron and steel production will, of course, be taken into account in any plans," he said.—Reuter.

General Election In Eire

Oldcastle, Eire, Dec. 21.—The Prime Minister of Eire, Mr. Eamon de Valera, announced here tonight that the Eire general election would take place "about the first week of February."

The election was called after the defeat of Mr. de Valera's Fianna Fail Party by the New Republican Party in two out of three by-elections at the end of October.—Reuter.

SHANGHAI HOTELS PUT UP RATES

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—All hotel rates in Shanghai were hiked by 100 percent from yesterday with the approval of the Social Affairs Bureau.

This move was allegedly made necessary in view of the rapid increase in commodity prices in recent weeks.

Employees of the various hotels, however, expressed disapproval of the increases on the grounds that the big hike would naturally drive customers away and eventually reduce their revenue from commissions.—Reuter.

Armenians Barred From Sailing

Paris, Dec. 21.—The French authorities have refused to allow 300 Armenians to return to Russia on board the Russian ship, the Pobeda, which is ready to sail from Marseilles, it was announced tonight. Another 1,000 Armenians have been allowed to embark on the ship.

The 300 are believed to have been stopped in view of the French decision strictly to enforce the rule which prevents persons of dual nationality from being repatriated to Russia.—Reuter.

Cheque For Services To U.S. Airmen

Frankfurt, Dec. 21.—Lt-Gen Curtis Lemay, chief of the United States Air Forces in Europe, said today that he planned to fly to Switzerland tomorrow to hand the Swiss Government a cheque for US\$1,050,000. The money will be payment for food, clothing, medical treatment and other services given by the Swiss to American fliers who landed, crashed or were interned in Switzerland during the war.—United Press.

RUSSIANS BLAME U.S. FOR BIG FOUR BREAKDOWN

BY EDDY GILMORE

Moscow, Dec. 22.—No pessimism is being expressed in Moscow comparable to the gloom in the west over the breakdown of the Foreign Ministers' Council session in London and prospects of future collaboration among the Big Four.

ARGENTINA DISPUTES ITO CHARTER

Havana, Dec. 21.—Argentina apparently closed the door today on joining the United States-sponsored International Trade Organisation. Dr. Diego Luis Molari, chief Argentine delegate, the current trade conference here, said in an interview his country would make no compromise on several disputed points and "could not unreservedly accept" the proposed ITO charter with articles opposed to Argentina's "vital national interests."

Molari listed as the principal points of conflict the most-favoured nation treatment for ITO members, control on state trading and public business enterprises, and foreign exchange regulations. He emphasised, however, that his delegation will continue taking part in the deliberations and that he himself will return after a trip to the United States to spend Christmas with his three sons, one a student at Columbia University.

Most-Favoured-Nation
The United States is one of 18 countries which drew up a tentative ITO charter at trade discussions in Geneva to which Argentina was not invited. Perhaps the most important Argentine-American conflict is over the most-favoured-nation clause. This provides that any advantage, favour, or privilege granted by an international trade "shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to all other countries."

This refers to general commercial provisions, not to tariff reductions. Argentina has proposed amending this article to provide that its extension of favours must be "on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis." The United States contends that the most-favoured-nation article is the core of the charter, and that international trade can be fostered only by a general freeing of restrictions.—Associated Press.

Letters To The Editor

Reorganisation Of The HKAA

Sir—I am very pleased to see that you have again brought to the attention of the residents of Hongkong the advisability of re-organising the Hongkong Automobile Association.

Prewar, the HKAA was a very efficient and well managed organisation, which was of great benefit to motorcar owners as well as to licensed drivers. The Association worked very closely with the traffic section of the Police, and were of definite assistance to the Police.

I do not know who were the Officers in 1941 but would be very happy to see the 1941 leaders of the Association call for a meeting of ex-members with the idea of re-organisation, and, I am sure that not only the old members but many of the new arrivals in the Colony, who are in possession of motorcars, would be more than pleased to have the benefit of such an organisation.

T. B. WILSON.

Hungary's Foreign Travel Tax

Budapest, Dec. 21.—A tax is to be imposed on all Hungarian citizens going abroad. It was learned here today.

The tax will be 30 florints for the first 10 days, 60 florints for the next 10 days and 100 florints for a further 10 days. For longer periods, a monthly rate will be fixed.

Only emigrants and those appointed to posts abroad will be exempt from the new tax.—Reuter.

Bombs Accompany Celebrations

Trieste, Dec. 21.—Four bombs, thrown by unknown persons during the Yugoslav partisans' celebrations here today, injured 10 people. The celebrations had not been authorised by the Military Government.—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers
1. "The Blue Danube." 2. It lies off the tip of South America and is separated from the mainland by the Strait of Magellan. 3. Ether. 4. An uprising led by the Boxers, a secret society in China, to drive out foreigners in 1900. 5. September 2. 6. Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

No Moscow commentators have even suggested that the international situation is hopeless, nor have they intimated that there may be no more meetings of the Foreign Ministers.

There is no indication of the Russians changing their position, and it is my opinion there is very little chance the U.S.S.R. will abandon the stand it took at London.

The Soviet press has taken the following position concerning the Foreign Ministers' breakdown in London:

The United States caused the breakdown. The other western powers went to London with decisions already made. The United States counted on a breakdown. Britain and France followed the American lead. They joined with the United States in trying to place the blame on Soviet Russia.

Soviet Contentions

The Soviet contentions:
First—The U.S.S.R. wants a free and independent Germany. Second—the United States does not because that would interfere in the plans of "Wall Street and Imperialists and militarists." Third—Russia, because of her role in the war, is entitled to full reparations from Germany. Fourth—the Big Three at Potsdam and Yalta once agreed to that demand. Fifth—the United States and British newspapers reported the London conference as if "on orders." In general, this is a reiteration of the position taken by Foreign Minister Molotov in his speeches before the Council. The Russians say that if she were resolute or tough enough, Russia would be forced to compromise. But the Russians call this an effort to dictate or bully them. They show no indication of giving in.

Russian Jubilation
Moscow, Dec. 22.—The end of rationing and issuance of the new rouble appears to have had an enormous effect on the Russian people.

In more than six years in the Soviet Union, no single peacetime event has created such jubilation. It has apparently created great respect for state planning among the Russian people. They are well aware that rationing still is in effect in many countries and that in others prices are rising or have risen steeply.

It seems obvious that if wages remain the same, if prices go down and rationing goes off—as is the case so far—that the Russian people will think the system is working pretty well. Nevertheless, the end of rationing and the revaluation of the rouble disclosed some chinks in the Soviet controlled economy.

The decree said the revaluation was carried out to combat war-induced inflation and "speculative elements"—two features familiar to capitalist economy.

Black Marketeers
Moscow newspapers reported the arrest of a number of persons who bought watches and rubber boots—reduced to a bargain price by new Government orders—and sold or attempted to sell them in speculative deals on the black market. Most of those arrested, the papers reported, were "not working."

The Pravda, reporting on how de-rationing affected one Leningrad family of textile workers, a mother, two daughters and a son—said that previously the total monthly wage of 3,400 roubles for all four workers was "sufficient practically only for food." Now, the paper said, quoting one of the daughters: "Every month more one half of our wages remains for clothing, shoes and other expenditure."—Associated Press.

Bombay Killings

Bombay, Dec. 21.—Four people were killed and eight injured in knife attacks by communal assailants in North and Central Bombay today, it was officially announced.

The present communal disturbances, which started on Thursday, have been confined to sporadic killings.

On Saturday, two people were killed and two injured in Central Bombay.

The Government has been imposing a curfew and collective fines on affected areas.—Reuter.

TO-DAY'S RADIO

H.K.T.
12.30. Daily Programme Summary:
12.30. Eddie Carroll and His Music and Connie Bowtell (Vocal). 1. News, Report, and Announcements.
1.10. Orchestral Interlude. 1.15. Mayerli. "Aquarium Suite." Billy Mayerli (Piano).
1.30. Orchestral Promenade.
1.40. Orchestral. 1.50. Orchestral.
2. Close Down.
4. Studio: Hospital Request Half Hour presented by Ethel Holmes Brown. 6.30. "Moods in Music." 6.45. Studio: Linda Carter talks on "Radio in the East." 7.15. Studio: "I Like What I Like" Presented by Reinhold Schiller. 7.45. Studio: "Fashion for Everybody." 7.50. B.B.C. Transcription Service: "Grand Hotel." Albert Sanders and His Palm Court Orchestra and Victoria Sladen (Vocal). 8.30. B.B.C. Transcription Service: "A Dream of Fantasy." The Story of the great Actor—Edmund Kean. 9. London Relay News. 9.10. Weather Report. 9.11. Studio: George Pearson and His Beach Boys with Mary (Vocal). 9.20. Orchestral. 9.45. Studio: A Short Story Written and Read by Jack Shepherd. 10. D'Erangier: "The Hundred Kisses." London Philharmonic Orch. 10.15. "Something for Everybody"—Music for all Tastes. 11. Close Down.



"You rang, Sir?"

China Must Have Vast Military Assistance

BY MILES W. VAUGHN

Shanghai, Dec. 21.—China must have extensive military assistance from the United States in the comparatively near future if Manchuria and parts of North China are to be saved from long-term Communist control, experienced American and Chinese leaders to whom this correspondent talked during the past week in Shanghai and Nanking are convinced.

The immediate situation is dangerous. It may well be desperate within four months, and may be hopeless by mid-summer unless American aid comes before that time.

The considered judgment of more than a score of leading Americans and Chinese—including the highest officials of the Chinese Government—with whom this correspondent had long personal conversations is that the crisis cannot be long delayed.

The immediate need of China, most informants believe, is military. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's army, which a year ago were the offensive against the forces of the Chinese Communist Party on nearly all fronts, are now on the defensive. The Communists control more than 80 percent of Manchuria and considerable areas of North China. Their patrols frequently raid the outskirts of the great North China cities of Peking and Tientsin, and occasionally penetrate to points almost within sight of Hankow, great Yangtze river port in sight.

They have been almost in sight of Tsingtau, North China head of the Yellow Sea. Admiral Charles M. Cooke, Commander of the American Naval Forces in the West Pacific.

Statement Of Support

A composite of the best opinion as to what is needed runs about as follows:

The United States should issue statements that it will give China whatever military and economic assistance necessary to crush the Communist military movement and enable the Chinese people to govern themselves. This statement probably should be made by President Truman himself since he made most of recent major statements on China policy.

He should make it clear that the assistance of the United States to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's armed forces will be active and continuous, and will be carried out regardless of possible danger that the Soviet Union may counter with open military assistance to the Chinese Red armies.

A top American military leader should be named at once to be supreme military adviser to the Nanking Government. If Nanking will give iron-clad assurances that his advice will be followed and that he will have complete control over American military supplies to be furnished to this country.

MacArthur Welcomed
In this connection, there is general approval of the suggestion made by

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If Mail closes before 10.00 a.m. Registered and Parcel Posts will close at 5 p.m. on previous day.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22
Closing Times By Air
Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin & Peking Reg. 3 p.m.
Canton, Luchow, Kuning & Hothow Reg. 3 p.m.
Swatow & Foochow Reg. 3 p.m.
Closing Times By Sea & Train
Macao, Tientsin & Shekki (By Sea) 1 p.m.
Canton (By Train) 2 p.m.
Japan (ordinary letters & cards only) (By Sea) 2 p.m.
Honolulu (By Sea) 2 p.m.
Swatow & Amoy (By Sea) 3 p.m.
Hollow & Bangkok (By Sea) 3 p.m.
Madras & Bombay (By Sea) 3 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin & Shekki (By Sea) 4 p.m.
Kongmoon (By Sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (By Sea) 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
Closing Times By Air
Swatow & Amoy Reg. 9 a.m.
Shanghai Reg. 9 a.m.
Hankow, Bangkok, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrain, Cairo (Nairobi), Johannesburg & Madras (via Cairo) Augusta & London Reg. 3 p.m.
Amoy & Foochow Reg. 3 p.m.
Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow, Tientsin & Peking Reg. 3 p.m.
Swatow Reg. 3 p.m.
Closing Times By Sea & Train
Canton (By Train) 1 a.m.
Macao, Tientsin & Shekki (By Sea) 8 a.m.
Manila, Australia and New Zealand via Sydney (By Sea) Parcel 9.30 a.m.
Reg. 9.30 a.m.
Swatow & Amoy, Egypt & Europe via Straits (By Sea) Parcel Noon Reg. 2.30 p.m.
U.S.A. Canada, Central & South America via San Francisco (No Parcel for Canada) (By Sea) Parcel 9.30 a.m. Reg. 9.30 a.m.

Italian Leftists Show Agrarian Strength

Rome, Dec. 21.—Italian leftists, having demonstrated their control over partisans and industrial workers, sponsored a meeting of Peasants' and farm workers' associations at Bologna today to show Premier Alcide de Gasperi's government their agrarian strength.

The meeting was called by the Communists and pro-Communist Socialists to work out a national programme of agricultural reforms. De Gasperi's own Democratic Christian Party, the Republicans and Giuseppe Saragat's anti-Communists boycotted the meeting.

L'Unita, Communist newspaper, and Avanti, Socialist organ, had said at least 5,000 delegates were expected.

Pietro Nenni, leader of the pro-Communist Socialists, said the meeting was another step towards achieving "auto-government" of the workers, peasants and intellectuals. Meanwhile, leftist-led labour's steady pressure for greater benefits continues, with some observers

predicting it may threaten the success of the anti-inflation budget of Vice-Premier Luigi Einaudi.

Workers in food industries are still on strike, despite their leaders' assertions that general agreement on their demands for increased service pay were reached at a night-long conference on Friday under the sponsorship of Labour Minister Amintore Fanfani.

However, the possibility that Italians may be without spaghetti over Christmas has lessened as the Union has permitted millers to work.

The National Unions of Street Car Company Employees and Metal Workers are talking about a possible strike after deadlock with employers over demands for more pay. The journalists of Central and Southern Italy also have again renewed their strike threat.

At Florence, where workers occupied a shoe factory last week to protest against lay-offs, two garment factories have been taken over for the same purpose. Students at Perugia shut themselves up within the famed University there to protest against regulations for approaching examinations.—Associated Press.

MINERALS IN RETURN FOR U.S. AID

Washington, Dec. 21.—European countries would be called upon to increase their output of strategic materials for the US national defence stockpile in return for part of the American aid under the US\$17,000,000,000 Marshall Plan.

President Harry Truman's proposal contains a provision which might make available some US\$250,000,000 worth of scarce war materials available for purchase annually.

Truman's legislative proposal calls for an "economic co-operation administration." The agency would be empowered to make grants, in cases where repayment of dollar loans is deemed not feasible.

It provides that an equivalent amount, in the currency of the recipient nation, be deposited in special accounts to be used for purposes mutually agreed upon by the United States and the country concerned.

One of the purposes specified is exploration for and production of raw materials probably in long-term short supply in the United States. The administrator could also spend part of the dollar funds appropriated by Congress for the same purpose.

The proposal mentions tin, natural rubber, industrial diamonds, and quinoline, of which this country has "few if no resources." It also lists copper, lead, zinc, chromium and manganese, of which US reserves were called "inadequate."—Associated Press.

NOTICE

UNRRA CLOSURE

All concerned are hereby notified that from 1st January, 1948, operational expenses incurred by CNRRA Kowloon Supply Office for handling and storing cargo shipped by UNRRA will be the responsibility of CNRRA. This includes any pre-shipment tackle expenses.

R. B. GOODWIN,
Closure Officer.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Owing to the Christmas Holidays, Advertisers requiring space in The Hongkong Telegraph on Saturday December 27, are requested to submit copy not later than noon on Tuesday, December 23.

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Christmas Dinner Hongkong Hotel ROOF GARDEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

8 P.M. — 1 A.M.

Cabaret Attraction DAVE HARVEY

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